

CLUB CHAMBERS FOR THE MARRIED.

SIR,—In this enterprising age, when companies are formed for every useful purpose, and when capitalists are eagerly seeking every mode of safely investing their money, it has often been a matter of surprise to me that some scheme has not been adopted to improve the dwellings of the middle class of society. There are model lodging-houses for the labouring population which appear even as a speculation, to answer in a pecuniary point of view, and it cannot be doubted that a company, properly authorized by Act of Parliament, might carry out some such plan as I am about to propose, with profit to themselves and benefit to the public.

I propose, therefore, that a society should be formed to purchase land or houses, upon the site of which a handsome and commodious building should be erected suitable for chambers for married people, each suite of rooms to be complete in itself, and to contain, say two handsome drawing-rooms, communicating with folding doors, a best bed-room and dressing-room, kitchen and servant's offices. Rents to vary according to situation, from about 50*l.* to 150*l.* per annum (a few sets might be let furnished at an increased rental), and that persons who are now compelled to reside in small inconvenient houses in the remote districts of Islington, Pentonville, or Camden Town, shall be enabled to live in handsome apartments at less expense and in a better and more central situation.

This system is universal on the continent and in Edinburgh, and indeed is very popular in London with single men, who find by combining they may occupy apartments at a trifling cost, which would require an income of ten thousand a year to maintain.

Allow me now to exemplify the matter in my own case. I am a married professional man, without family (not an uncommon case), with a limited income (ditto), averaging about 500*l.* a year. I pay 100*l.* a year in rent and taxes, keep two servants, and have to keep up appearances. Thus, one-fifth of my entire income is consumed in rent. Now if I lived in chambers, I should live equally well at less cost, and could dispense with the services of one domestic. Should these crude and hasty lines be the means of the formation of such a society, I shall be ready and willing to take shares in the speculation, or become a tenant after the building has been erected. I am confident it would pay a very good interest! witness the Albany, the Club Chambers Association in Regent-street, Mark's establishment in Langham-place, where, by the bye, the rents are about double what I have ventured to name. I am not a practical architect; but when I see on every side new buildings erecting, it does appear strange that no attempts have been made to improve the already existing streets. All our great undertakings are the result of private enterprise; and after seeing the anxiety the public have for railway speculation, and every other investment that offers a better return for their capital, I think such a scheme as I have proposed has only to be properly taken in hand, to benefit the builder, the capitalist, and the public.—I am Sir, &c.

A PROFESSIONAL MAN.

London, Sept. 9th, 1846.

MEMS. IN THE PROVINCES.

THE Lords of the Admiralty went down to Devonport last week to entertain themselves, their friends, and others with the ceremonial, and the more substantial adjuncts following in the wake, of the ceremonial laying of the foundation stone of "The new establishment for the manufacture and repair of machinery for her Majesty's steam-ships of war," as described on the stone itself, which is a rectangular block of granite from the Par quarries, near Fovey, 12 feet 10 inches long, and of proportional breadth and thickness, with a weight of nine tons. The First Lord laid the stone, or rather the lime in which it was to be imbedded. This rather bulky block of stone constitutes the key of the inverted arch which forms the western entrance to the dock of the south basin. In preparing for this dock, an excavation has been made 43 feet in depth, and 150,000 cubic yards in content, and of such extent as to form, when completed, a lock or

dock 360 feet long and 80 feet wide, within which a further excavation will be made for a basin, 640 feet by 500 feet. The whole site to be occupied by the new works is 74 acres. The work was begun on the 19th of November, 1844. Mr. Naamth's tilt hammer has been used in driving the piles, the first of which, the dolphin or guide pile, was driven on the 30th of January, 1846. The tilting-machine is a very large one, driven by steam-power. In the dam, which extends to the unprecedented length of 1,600 feet, 8,000 loads of timber have been driven in piles in the course of a few months, instead of years, as by the old plan, and with a great saving of expense, although the cost, even as it is, has exceeded 130,000*l.* Up to the 31st of August, nearly 207,000 cubic feet of granite, and nearly 350,000 cubic feet of limestone, have been delivered on the works to Messrs. Baker and Son, the contractors. Eight hundred workmen are employed.—The Cambridge Paving and Lighting Board have been called upon to interfere, by remonstrance, at least, if not by law, with the plan and progress of a proposed new arcade about to be erected by the trustees of Storey's Charity, in Black Bear Yard. The ground of complaint is, that the narrowness of the passage may endanger the public health. Mr. Walters, the architect, expressed his willingness to produce the plans, though he doubted the competency of the authority of the commissioners. The plans, however, are to be laid before them at their next meeting.

A dispute between the corporation of Cambridge and the authorities of St. John's College on the point of liability, has hitherto prevented the trifling outlay necessary to repair the bridge at the back of the college, which is allowed to stand in a state dangerous, especially in the dark, to every passer by. The very moderate sum of 5*l.*, it appears, would remove both the nuisance and the disgrace to all parties concerned.—At a vestry meeting at All Saints Church, West Ham, Stratford, on the 3rd instant, it was resolved that St. John's Church, Stratford, should be repaired by a church-rate of 8*d.* per pound; but a resolution to appoint a committee to inquire into the state of All Saints' Church itself, with power to engage surveyors to assist therein, was negatived by a large majority, though it was deemed necessary, and agreed that the vicar and churchwardens should form a committee for that purpose, and report themselves on the subject. The expediency of rating machinery was also negatived.—A gift of 500*l.* towards the cost of building the new church at Lynn has been presented by the Hon. Spencer Cowper, the high sheriff of the county. The consecration, previously announced for the 23rd inst., is to take place on the 24th.—It is expected that 100,000*l.* over and above the 100,000*l.* of property of that value, bequeathed to found the proposed university in Manchester, will be collected by public contribution.—The Rev. Hugh McNeill has himself laid the first stone of his new church of St. Paul, Prince's-park, Liverpool.—From Mr. Jesse Hartley's report to the Liverpool Dock Committee, on the general state and progress of the dock works, and the expenditures in his department for the year ending 24th June, 1846, it appears that the total expenditure on the new and old works, including a multitude of minor details, occupying some pages of the report, and far too numerous for special notice, is as follows:—

Total new works.....	£321,491	11	10
Total repairs.....	18,728	5	9
Increase of stock.....	12,303	3	11
Total expenditure..	£352,523	1	6

From a report by Mr. Duncan to the Commissioners of paving and sewerage at Liverpool, it appears that great progress is making at the Water-works, Greenlane. It is intended, at a cost of 98*l.*, to render the pipes, laid down within the limit of the proposed dock extension at Wapping, serviceable in the event of fire. The engine and boiler house at the works are about ready for roofing. The surveyor, Mr. Stewart's, account for surveying and buying land for the works, to the extent of 8,000*l.*, and amounting to 268*l.* 12*s.*, was pronounced to be "exceedingly reasonable."

At a vestry meeting held at Kemerton, on Thursday week, it was proposed to accept the highly liberal offer of the rector, the Ven.

Archdeacon Thorpe, to rebuild the north aisle and tower of Kemerton Church, and erect a new spire, at an estimated expense of 1,500*l.*, on condition of the parish undertaking to raise 500*l.* on security of the rates, to be expended, if necessary, and to be paid off within ten years. Mr. Throckmorton and Mr. Tidmarsh, two Roman Catholics, respectively moved and seconded a negative amendment, which being lost, Mr. Tidmarsh demanded a poll, to continue till Monday last. At the close of the poll on Friday night, the numbers were—for the Archdeacon's offer, 80; against it, 41.—Bidston Church has been considerably altered and improved in the interior, at the sole and voluntary expense of the parish; but much remains to be done in carrying out their laudable desire to redeem their church from its hitherto much decayed and dilapidated condition.

THE OFFICES OF GOVERNMENT AT WHITEHALL.

SIR,—It was my intention to have called the attention of antiquaries to the fact, that another of the ancient buildings of Westminster is about to be swept away; but seeing the edifice in question is lightly spoken of in your pages, I pause, thinking that in my veneration for the productions of former ages, I must be either before or after the spirit of the time in which I live—a time in which we have seen the most wanton devastation of our ancient buildings, as well as of those which can scarcely be called ancient. The Sainte Chapelle, in the Palais de Justice, at Paris, still exists all glorious, the perfection of beauty, while our own St. Stephen's Chapel, built a century after, in rivalry of the former and exceeding it in sumptuousness, has just been demolished. St. Edmund's Hall, in which that pious monarch dispensed justice and performed his deeds of charity,—the painted chamber, the princes' chamber, the jewel tower, &c., are soon to follow, while a worthy destructionist announced some time ago the "pleasing intelligence" that St. Margaret's church was immediately to be pulled down, and thus, with the exception of the Abbey, Westminster will be completely denuded of all its ancient glories. Yet I see accounts of bodies of great men poring in rapture over a tile, or over a cloth rubbed with cobble's wax! while national monuments are exultingly destroyed under their very eyes, without the least expression of regret.

SIR,—This "old deformity," this "eyesore," was once one of the most elegant buildings in the metropolis, and in Hollar's views of the then existing charming edifices of Westminster, this with its noble mullioned windows and four lofty turrets, appears most conspicuous, but strip a peacock of its feathers, and he becomes very ugly. The patronized architects of England for the last hundred years do not appear to have held the works of their predecessors in much respect; hence this building was despoiled of its towers, its windows of their tracery, the windows themselves filled up with brickwork, the walls and buttresses cased with brick, the interior divided into three floors, the walls pierced with three rows of holes for the insertion of sash lights, in short it became what we for a few weeks longer may see it. With your quick discernment you will easily conceive its original outline, and the pitch of its leaded roof is visible in the remains of the north cornice.

This now despoiled edifice was three centuries ago, the daily scene of the most gorgeous splendour ever witnessed in England: it was the chapel of Cardinal Wolsey, and is the last great relic of York House and (with the exception of the Savoy Chapel), of that long line of palaces which once studied the banks of the Thames.

I am, Sir, &c.,
WILLIAM BARDWELL.

4, Great Queen-street.

BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES, EUSTON-SQUARE.—WHY EMPLOY AN ARCHITECT?—We are requested to state with reference to an article under this head which appeared in our last number but one, that the builder of the plunging baths therein mentioned (Mr. Ewart of the New Road Zinc Works), undertook to erect them without holding any party responsible for the cost, and to receive the proceeds of them weekly until he should have been paid the sum of 500*l.* This in no way interferes with our argument.